





# SPS MUSEUM

Srinagar, J&K, India

[www.jkarchives.nic.in](http://www.jkarchives.nic.in)



SPS Museum, Srinagar



**Directorate of Archives Archaeology and Museums**  
Jammu and Kashmir State, Srinagar / Jammu  
0194-2311185, 2311323





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manuscripts with painted covers of the 7<sup>th</sup> century regarding Buddhism.

A bilingual birch bark document in Shardha and Persian of the 16<sup>th</sup> century is another rear document relating the purchase of land. Many manuscripts in Persian or Sanskrit also have some good miniatures or bear royal seal. There are also topographical drawings relating to different shrines, mosques, villages, rivers etc of Kashmir prepared during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The exhibits include some of the finest specimens of calligraphy.

**Natural History Gallery** has a wonderful collection of birds and animals of the state represented by markhors, leopards, king foxes, ring tails, silver foxes, night herons, chakoors, geoses, Raj hances, swans, colourful birds, four legged chicken, snakes, other reptiles etc. Most of these were collected and stuffed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century by Mr. A. E. Warden, a recognised expert on the fauna of Kashmir. Most of the birds that were collected then are seasonally found in Kashmir on account of their migration from Siberia and Central Asia. The gallery always remain a favourite for the children who come in groups from the schools for their project assignments. They also see here a number of eggs of birds that catch their imagination.





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***The Museum will offer following special facilities:***

- Access to the reserve collection to students and scholars in addition to the library of the Museum. Photographs of artefacts will be made available on payment.
- Advice and identification of objects to be offered to individuals who own these. Guide books, picture post cards will be available on sale including the replicas of some of the objects of the Museum.
- A Museum shop is expected to sell some of the wonderful arts and crafts of the state for promoting cultural tourism.





## Introduction

Sri Pratap Singh Museum, Srinagar is the premier museum of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Established in 1898 by the Dogra government of Maharaja Pratap Singh it was housed in his summer palace at Lal Mandi in Srinagar on the left bank of the River Jhelum. After more than 100 years the Museum is getting a new building in the premises of the old building that not only provides space but also is allowing to exhibit a larger number of artefacts in a better environment guaranteeing safer life for the heritage of the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Over the years the SPS Museum has collected some 80,000 artefacts providing multilayered history of cultural heritage of the state. In the new building the Museum at the ground floor starts with the antiquity of man in Kashmir followed by the developments that gave rise to settlements around 5000 years ago. The archaeological developments are further showcased by the works of art in terracotta, stone and bronze that remains the most prestigious collection of the state showing the vastness of the cultural heritage. In the ground floor the remarkable collection of coins provides a continuous history of coin development in Kashmir from around 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC.

On the first floor decorative arts of Jammu and Kashmir display the vast treasures of the craftsmen who have created works in different kinds of material. Jewellery gallery portrays some exquisite works in silver and gold. Culture and Society gallery portrays the vast cultural ethos of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

On the second floor miniature paintings will take us to the world of colours and landscapes, bold and mystified. Manuscripts take us to 7<sup>th</sup> century and thereafter. Textile gallery exhibits some wonderful textiles that have lured people for hundreds of years.

## Major Galleries

**Archaeology Gallery** is divided in many subsections starting with the Palaeolithic and Neolithic periods demonstrating what happened when, how and why? It narrates history of man in Kashmir from around 2 million years down upto 5000 BP when he settled down and built villages to introduce farming for







sustenance and invented arts and crafts.

The Terracotta Gallery is exhibiting the works of art from 1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> centuries that mostly remained associated with the Buddhist faith in Kashmir. The Sculptural Galleries display some of the wonderful sculptures in stone and bronze of the Buddhist and Brahmanical faiths, some of these were once worshiped in their temples or adorned the architecture. Many of these were procured from excavations across the valley. The sculptures also narrate the history of development, chronology and influences the artists received for their manifestations. A considerable number of these are on view, out of a large collection, in a very scientific and modern way with elaborate write-ups narrating their evolution and history for understanding their essence in a religious background, philosophy and iconography.



**Numismatic Gallery** has been arranged to show the evolutionary development of coins. Starting from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC the journey of coins takes us to the present times through the punch-marked coins to that of the Greek and Greek principalities in India, through Kushans to Huns, through the Hindu Rajas to Sultans of Kashmir, through Mughals to Afghans, through Sikhs of Punjab to Dogras of Jammu and Kashmir, through the British to Republic era. This journey of coins narrates the development of emergence of coins and their evolution at different stages along with the political and economic situation of the country. The coins also give us the cultural narrative of various periods in addition to the development of Indian



scripts. Currency notes are part of the gallery along with the stamp papers and the stamps.



**Decorative Art Gallery** unfolds the history of the people through the exquisitely carved

of the state. The

artefacts are

present dynamic

artists like those

copper ware or wood works

Jade and serpentine stone works

and daily use article in wicker,

etc. are splendidly made. The

terracotta glazed tile work of the

Mughal times forms part of the

gallery. Musical instruments

are in variety represented by

*sitar, santur, tumbkhnear* etc.

Many of these have papier-mâché

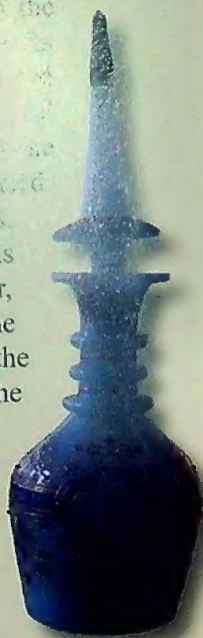
designs. Wood craft presents

splended workmanship of the

artists of Kashmir. Likewise

straw and wicker work artefacts are

also exhibited in the gallery.



**Jewellery Gallery** is giving indication of the cultural and social conditions of the people at different stages of history. Even if many of the jewellery items in gold and silver are out of fashion today yet they provide information about their ornamental use in bygone days.

**Culture and Society Gallery** showcases various aspects of the society and culture of the people of the state through house and house-patterns, utility objects along with the costumed







models that represent the cultural aspects of the people living in various regions of the state from Gilgit, Baltistan, Jammu & Kashmir.



**Arms and Armoury Gallery** mostly displays guns and arms that were used in the World War I and were won as war trophies by the Dogra army that was part of the British forces in the war. In addition are displayed some wonderful damascened swords and daggers along with the armour for men and shields.



**Textile Gallery** (under construction) has some of the fabulous and magnificent collection of the Kashmir shawls in pashmina. The interwoven designs of these narrate the story of their evolution from 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards. The embroidered works in shawls show some of the choicest designs that gave these textile pieces colour and aesthetic beauty. The gallery has one of the rare pieces of collection of the 15<sup>th</sup> century that shows the style of calligraphy used for decorations on the textile for making the royal canopies.

**Painting Gallery** houses more than 700 paintings mainly miniatures belonging to Kangra, Basohli, Jammu, Pahari, Mughal, Rajasthani, Kashmiri schools that were famous centres for painting the miniatures. It includes a very famous set of world famous Rasmanjri series from Basohli of the 18<sup>th</sup> century A.D. In addition some European water colour paintings of Gilgit region with autographs of 1885-86 are among the prized collections of the museum depicting the landscape of Gilgit-







the remotest area of the state and some wonderful portraits of the people there. The museum has also a rear collection of Kashmiri banners and Tibetan thankas as also contains a good collection of oil portraits of Dogra rulers of the state.

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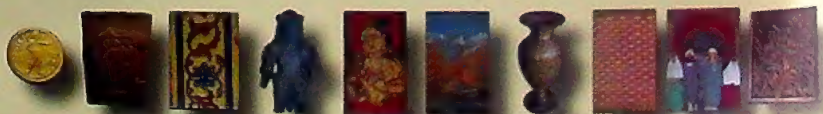
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## General Information:

### Entry fee:

Indian Citizens: Rs.10.00 each

Foreigners: Rs.50.00 each

Private school students: Rs.5.00 each

Govt school students: Rs.2.00 each

Camera: Rs 100.00 per camera (*for Indian citizen*)

Rs 200.00 per camera (*for Foreigners*)

Photography /  
video shooting:

Rs 3000/per gallery.

**Open:**

Tuesday - Sunday (10:30 a.m to 4:30 p.m.)

**Closed:**

National / State Holidays



**Printed by:** Director, Directorate of Archaeology, Archives and  
Museums, J&K Government, Srinagar



